



Roadmap for Hearing Health: Research

As part of the \$21.2 million investment to implement key initiatives from the [Roadmap for Hearing Health](#), the Australian Government is investing \$7.3 million in research that will improve evidence to support better hearing outcomes. This investment seeks to improve the lives of Australians at-risk, or impacted, by hearing loss as well as enhancing the hearing sector's capacity to deliver improved hearing outcomes.

What is the investment?

\$7.3 million will be invested in a program of research to develop a sound evidence base for treatment, service delivery and prevention of hearing loss.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) will lead the implementation of this research program, through a competitive and peer reviewed grants round. Research would include:

- Determining best practice for population-based screening and identification of intervention options;
- Identification of suitable methods to accurately measure the prevalence and severity of hearing loss in the Australian community; and
- Research on the incidence of balance disorders.

These and other research topics will address priorities identified in the six domains of the Roadmap for Hearing Health, which include:

- Enhancing awareness and inclusion;
- Closing the Gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear and Hearing Health;
- Preventing hearing loss;
- Identifying hearing loss;
- Providing support; and
- Enhancing the hearing sector's workforce.

Why is this investment being made?

Research into hearing health is a recurring recommendation across all six domains in the Roadmap for Hearing Health as well as three separate Parliamentary inquiries which heard from a broad range of stakeholders across the sector.

This investment will build the evidence base to allow for hearing services support to adapt to client needs and technological changes.

What does this mean for consumers?

The investment in research will generate better evidence to support future hearing policies, and service delivery models. Vulnerable Australians who are at-risk of, or impacted by, hearing loss will have the most up to date, evidence based supports and services available to them.

This will assist the Government design and plan the way services are delivered in the future.

What does this mean for providers?

Providers will have the assurance that the supports they are providing are evidence based and focussed on clinical outcomes of consumers.